

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **SURGICAL NEEDLE WITH HAND-ACTUABLE LOCK MECHANISM**

the specification of which  
(check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on May 21, 2001 as  
Application Serial No. 09/863,074  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a-d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and also have identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Priority Claimed  
YES    NO

(Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Country) \_\_\_\_\_ (Day/Month/Year Filed) \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Serial No.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Filing Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

09/313,881    May 18, 1999    issued \_\_\_\_\_  
(Application Serial No.)    (Filing Date)    (Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (Listed name and registration number).

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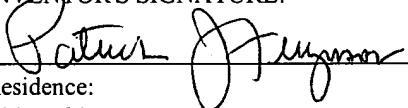
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